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SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRESS STATEMENT ON UNSCR 1822  
AL-QAEDA/TALIBAN SANCTIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 00991

¶1. Summary: Below is a press statement circulated by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supporting the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 against Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Belgium chairs the committee overseeing UNSCR 1267. End Summary.

BEGIN PRESS STATEMENT

Foreign Minister Karl De Gucht rejoices in the strengthening of the credibility of the sanctions regime against Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Minister De Gucht salutes the unanimous adoption of resolution 1822 regarding the sanctions regime against persons and entities linked to Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Minister De Gucht is of the opinion that the UN sanctions - freezing of assets, travel restrictions and weapons embargo - are an important instrument in the framework of the international efforts to end the threat of Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

More particularly, the minister rejoices in the improved procedures against persons and entities subjected to sanctions which were also made possible through Belgian efforts. 'The respect of fundamental rights is an essential precondition for a durable and credible action against terrorism', says De Gucht. This is indeed a priority of our country which holds the presidency of the sanctions committee Al Qaeda/Taliban since 2007.

As a consequence, a complete and substantial revision of the list of about 500 persons and entities subjected to sanctions will be carried out by June 2010 to ensure that measures against them are still justified. Also, improvements have been made regarding the notification and motivation of decisions to persons and entities targeted by sanctions. These efforts need to continue.

Minister De Gucht is of the opinion that the UN Security Council has thus underlined the importance of an efficient and credible sanctions regime. This commitment now needs to be filled in more specifically. In this context, Belgium continues to strive for the reinforcement of protecting human rights in the framework of the fight against terror.

END PRESS STATEMENT

FOX

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